

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 260900Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8937
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0111

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PBOR LA CB VM
SUBJECT: LAO PARTY AND GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THE VIETNAM-
KAMPUCHEAN BORDER CONFLICT

REF: VIENTIANE 0011

1. KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE, LPRPCC SECRETARY GENERAL AND
LPDR PRIME MINISTER, HAS SENT TELEGRAMS PUBLISHED
JANUARY 25 TO VIETNAMESE LEADERS LE DUAN AND PHAM VAN
DONG AND TO KAMPUCHEAN LEADER POL POT RESPONDING TO
MESSAGES FROM BOTH SIDES REGARDING THEIR BORDER DISPUTE.
KAYSONE CALLED FOR THE TWO SIDES TO SETTLE THE CONFLICT
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QUICKLY THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

2. A PASSAGE IN THE LAO MESSAGES EXPLICITLY EXPRESSED
SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAMESE APPEAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS.
KAYSONE STATED: "WE APPROVE THE POSITION OF VIETNAM
(AS PRESENTED) IN THE INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER
PHAM VAN DONG TO THE VIETNAMESE PRESS AGENCY JANUARY 4,

1978, (IN WHICH HE) DECLARED READINESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH KAMPUCHEA ON THE VIETNAMESE-KAMPUCHEAN BORDER DISPUTE."

3. IN THE NAME OF THE LPRP AND THE LPDR, KAYSONE EXPRESSED "INFINITE REGRET AND PROFOUND SADNESS" OVER THE BORDER CONFLICT AND COMMENTED THAT "IT ENTAILED EVIL CONSEQUENCES FOR POST WAR NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION IN VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA AS WELL AS FOR REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE WORLD." HE ADDED "....THESE INCIDENTS WILL ONLY FAVOR IMPERIALIST AND REACTIONARY FORCES."

4. KAYSONE STATED IN MESSAGES TO BOTH HANOI AND PHNOM PENH THE LAO VIEW THAT LAOS, VIETNAM, AND KAMPUCHEA WERE FRATERNAL AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND THAT "AT PRESENT EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES IS TRULY INDEPENDENT AND THE PEOPLE ARE CLEARLY MASTERS OF THEIR OWN DESTINY." KAYSONE ALSO SAID THAT THE "POLICY OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OF THE LPDR IS TO ALWAYS PRESERVE, CONSOLIDATE AND STRENGTHEN LAO-VIETNAMESE-KAMPUCHEAN SOLIDARITY..."

5. COMMENT: THE LAO TELEGRAMS REMOVE ANY DOUBT AS TO THE ALIGNMENT OF THE LPRP AND THE LPDR WITH THE VIETNAMESE ON THE BORDER CONFLICT (AS ON VIETUALLY ALL CONFIDENTIAL

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OTHER MATTERS). INITIAL LAO CAUTION IN AVOIDING COMMENT ON THE CONFLICT MIGHT HAVE INDICATED LAO-VIETNAMESE STRATEGY WHEREBY THE LAO WOULD PLAY A MEDIATOR ROLE. CHANCES OF SUCH A ROLE FOR THE LAO NOW SEEM TO BE LESSENED BY THE CLEAR STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE VIETNAMESE CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

6. A LAO OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOLD US JANUARY 18 THAT THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY AND THE LPDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH HAD CONVENED EARLIER THAT WEEK HAD DISCUSSED THE POSITION OF THE LPDR REGARDING THE BORDER CONFLICT.
ROBERTS

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